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## CHARLES READ.

BY GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ.

Charles Read was born in England, and came to Burlington, in the Province of West Jersey, about the year 1678.

Removing some time afterwards to Philadelphia, he became distinguished as a merchant, and was known throughout the Colonies as a man of extended influence.

The earliest information I have been able to obtain with regard to him is to be found in the note at the bottom of page 150, 1st Vol. Proud's "History of Pennsylvania," edition of 1797.<sup>1</sup>

In 1691, Mr. Read seems to have taken the part of George Keith in his difference with the Quakers. Proud says, in a note, p. 369, Vol. I., "Some of the principal persons who adhered to *Keith*, and were men of rank, character, and reputation in these provinces, and divers of them great preachers, and much followed, were Thomas Budd, George

<sup>1</sup> "In the tenth month, O. S. (December), 1678, arrived the *Shield* from *Hull*, *Daniel Towes*, Commander, and anchored before *Burlington*. This was the first ship that came so far up the river *Delaware*. Opposite to *Coaquanock*, the *Indian* name of the place where *Philadelphia* now stands, which was a bold and high shore, she went so near it in turning that part of the tackling struck the trees, some of the passengers expressing, '*It was a fine situation for a town.*' The people next morning went on shore upon the ice, so hard and so suddenly had it froze in the space of one night."—*Proud's Hist. of Penn.*, Vol. I. pages 149 and 150.\*

\* Note at bottom of page 150. "About this time, and a few years afterwards, arrived at Burlington the following settlers from *England*, viz.: John Butcher, Henry Grubb, William Butcher, William Brightwen, Thomas Gardner, John Budd, John Burten, Seth Smith, Walter Pumphrey, Thomas Ellis, James Satterthwaite, Richard Arnold, John Woolman, John Stacy, Thomas Eves, Benjamin Duffield, John Payne, Samuel Cleft, William Cooper, John Shinn, William Biles, John Skein, John Warrel, Anthony Morris, Samuel Bunting, *Charles Reed*, Francis Collins, Thomas Matthews, Christopher Wetherill, John Dewsbury, John Day, Richard Basnett, John Antrom, William Biddle, Samuel Furnace, John Ladd, Thos. Raper, Roger Huggins, and Thos. Wood."—*Smith's Hist. of New Jersey*.

Hutchinson, Robert Turner, Francis Rawle, John Hart, *Charles Reade*."

On the 25th October, 1701, William Penn, before sailing for England, "favored the *town of Philadelphia*, then become very considerable, and in a flourishing condition, with a particular memorial of his benevolence by granting the inhabitants thereof, likewise a charter of privileges, for its particular regulation, good order, government, and police."<sup>1</sup> After naming Edward Shippen as Mayor, Thomas Story as Recorder, Thomas Farmer as Sheriff, and Robert Ashton as Clerk of the Peace of the incorporated City of Philadelphia, the charter continues: "And I do hereby name, constitute, and appoint Joshua Carpenter, Griffith Jones, Anthony Morris, *Joseph Wilcox*, Nathan Stanbury, *Charles Read*, Thomas Masters, and William Carter, citizens and inhabitants of the said City, to be the present *Aldermen* of the said City of Philadelphia." "And I do also nominate and appoint John Parsons, William Hudson, William Lee, Nehemiah Allen, Thomas Paschall, John Budd, Junr., Edward Smout, Samuel Buckley, James Atkinson, *Pentecost Teague*, *Francis Cook*, and Henry Badcocke to be the twelve present Common Council men of the said City."<sup>2</sup>

In this list of Aldermen for the new city, in 1701, we find the names of Charles Read and his friend and executor, Joseph Wilcox. Among the members of the Common Council will be observed Charles Read's friend and executor, Francis Cook, who was afterwards the executor of Charles Read's wife, as was Pentecost Teague, another Councilman.

In October, 1703, Charles Read, then a member of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, signed "the declarations and Tests." *Vide* "Votes of the Assembly," Year 1704, page 3.

Mr. Read died on or about the first of August, 1705. His will, dated the 4th January, 1704, was proved on the 6th August, 1705, before John Evans, Lieutenant-Governor of

<sup>1</sup> 1st Vol. Proud's Hist. of Penn., pp. 351 and 352.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix 2d Vol. Proud's Hist. of Penn., p. 46.

the Province of Pennsylvania, and is recorded in the office of the Register of Wills of the City of Philadelphia, in Book C, pages 4, 5, 6, and 7. He styles himself in this instrument "Charles Read, of the City of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, Merchant." He mentions his sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Bussill and Martha Dumer, and their children. Also "John Tomkins, his wife and children." He gives to the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Evan Evans, Minister of the (Christ) Church in Philadelphia, £5. To his loving friends and executors, Joseph Wilcox and Francis Cook, £5 each. To his wife, Amy Read, his silver cup and beds, furniture, and money. To his son, Charles Read, when he is of age, he gives his dwelling-house and grainery. To his daughter

Rachel his silver tankard marked C<sup>B</sup>+<sub>c</sub>A. To his daughter Sarah his small silver tankard and "French Louis d'ore in gold" and two of the largest of his silver spoons. He sets apart to his wife one-third of the rest of his estate. One-fourth of the remaining two-thirds he gives to his son Charles, £50 to be paid to him at 20 years of age, and the remainder at 21. The other three-fourths of the remaining two-thirds he gives to his two daughters in equal portions, for whose education and maintenance, until they are of age, he amply provides. In case all his heirs die without issue, his estate is to be divided into two equal parts, the one to go to the poor of Philadelphia, the other to the maintenance of a Church of England Minister in the City of Philadelphia. The witnesses to the will are Abraham Bickley, Thom Atkins, Nicholas Pearse.

In the same book (C), at pages 13 and 14, is to be found the will of Amy Read, the wife of Charles Read. She describes herself as Amy Read, of the City of Philadelphia, widow. She gives and bequeaths unto *her* "*son-in-law, Charles Read,*" the sum of five pounds curr<sup>t</sup> money of Pennsylvania. Unto the Friends of the Monthly Meeting of the City, called Quakers, she gives five pounds. All her other property she divides equally between her two daughters, Rachel Read and Sarah Read. Her executors are

Francis Cook and Pentecost Teague, of the City of Philadelphia. The witnesses are Abraham Bickley, Mary Senior, M,—her mark,—and Sarah Rathloss. The will bears date October 4, 1705, and was proved October 12, 1705. As Amy Read simply signed her initials, A. R., it is natural to suppose she was very ill when the will was made, and died within the week, say the 11th October, 1705, the day before the will was proved, and scarcely more than two months after the decease of her lamented husband.

From these two wills the following conclusions may be drawn :

1st. That Charles Read was married twice. By his first wife he had an only child, his son, Charles Read, afterwards a distinguished citizen of Philadelphia, to whom he left a part of his estate, and who was called “son-in-law” by Charles Read’s wife, Amy Read.

2d. Charles Read (the elder) had two daughters by his second wife, Amy Read, of whom Rachel, who afterwards married Israel Pemberton, was the eldest, since she is named both in Charles Read’s and in Amy Read’s will before her sister Sarah, who married James Logan.<sup>1</sup>

3d. The name should be spelled Read, because Charles Read signs his name in this manner, and his wife’s name is thus spelled in several different places.

4th. Charles Read, though perhaps originally a Friend, evidently belonged to the Church of England at the time of his death, while his wife, Amy Read, was without doubt a Quakeress.

Charles Read, the younger, was, like his father, a merchant of wealth and influence. Elected to the Common Council as early as the 9th August, 1717,<sup>2</sup> he continued to serve until the 3d October, 1722, when he was made an Alderman.<sup>3</sup> On the 6th October, 1724, Alderman Charles Read and Councilman John Cadwalader were appointed to wait upon the Governor, to know when he would be at leisure to

<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs of James Logan*, p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Philada.*, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 218.

qualify the Mayor elect.<sup>1</sup> On page 263 of the Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, under date of 26th November, 1726, Charles Read first figures as Mayor of the city. This office he held until 3d October, 1727,<sup>1</sup> when his term expired, and he was elected Alderman. This office he held till his death, in the latter part of the year 1736.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Read was also Sheriff of the City of Philadelphia in 1729, 1730, and 1731.

In the third volume of the "Pennsylvania Archives," p. 546, there is a letter from Charles Read, Jr., Commissioner for Indian Affairs for New Jersey. It is dated at Burlington, September 29, 1758, and directed to Richard Peters, Esq., at Easton. May not the writer have been the son of Charles Read the younger? In fact, what could be more natural than that the grandson of Charles Read the elder should return to the first residence of his grandfather at Burlington? I am not aware that any of the descendants of Charles Read, in the male line, are in existence.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GLASS MANUFACTURE IN SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

READ BEFORE THE SALEM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BY R. M. ACTON.

On what in some of the old surveys of this section is called "The great road to Pilesgrove" from Salem, by the way of Thompson's Bridge (now Alloway), but little more than a mile from the latter place, stands an old dwelling, built of logs neatly squared and dovetailed at the corners, carrying the scars where the joists have been sawn off, which at one time extended several feet beyond the first story to support the projecting roof, so common to the

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Common Council, pp. 249, 275, 361.